NUMB. CCXXI.

The SPECTATOR.

——ab Ovo
Usque ad Mala—— Hor.

Tuesday, November 13. 1711.

WHEN I have finished any of my Speculations, it is my Method to consider which of the Ancient Authors have touched upon the Subject that I treat of. By this means I meet with some celebrated Thought upon it, or a Thought of my own expressed in better Words, or some Similitude for the Illustration of my Subject. This is what gives Birth to the Motto of a Speculation, which I rather chuse to take out of the Poets than the Prose Writers, as the former usually give a finer Turn to a Thought than the latter, and by couching it in few Words, and in harmonious Numbers, make it more portable to the Memory.

The Reader is therefore sure to meet with at least one good Line in every Paper, and very often finds his Imagination entertained by a Hint that awakens in his Memory some beautiful Passage of a sublick Author.

There was a Saying of an Ancient Philosopher, which some of our Writers have ascribed to Queen *Elizabeth*, who perhaps might have taken occasion to repeat it, That a good Face is a Letter of Recommendation. It naturally makes the Beholders inquire into the Person who is the Owner of it, and immediately prepossesses them in his Favour. A handsome Motto has the same Effect. Besides that, it always gives a Supernumerary Beauty to a Paper, and sometimes in a manner necessary when the Writer is engaged in what may appear a Paradox to vulgar Minds, as it shews that he is supported by good Authorities, and is not singular in his Opinion.

I must confess the Motto is of little use to an unlearned Reader. For which Reason I consider it rather as a *Word to the Wise*. But as for my unlearned Friends, if they cannot relish the Motto, I take care to make Provision for them in the Body of my Paper. If they do not understand the Sign before it hung out, they know very well by it, that they may meet with Entertainment in the House; and I think I was never better pleased than with a Country Man's Compliment, who upon his Friend's telling him that he would like the *Spectator* much better if he understood the Motto, replied, *That good Wine needs no Bush*.

I have heard of a couple of Preachers in a Country Town, who endeavoured which should outshine one another, and draw together the greatest Congregation. One of them being well versed in the Fathers, used to quote every now and then a *Latin* Sentence to his Illiterate Hearers, who it seems found themselves so edified by it, that they flocked in greater Numbers to this Learned Man, than to his Rival. The other finding his Congregation mouldering every *Sunday*, and hearing at length what was the Occasion of it, resolved to give his Parish a little *Latin* in his turn; but being unacquainted with any of the Fathers, he digested into his Sermons the whole Book of *Quæ Genus*, adding however such Explications to it as he thought might be for the Benefit of his People. He afterwards entered upon *As in præsenti*, which he converted in the same manner to the Use of his Parishioners. This in a very little time thickned his Audience, filled his Church, and routed his Antagonist.

The natural Love to *Latin* which is so prevalent in our common People, makes me think that my Speculations fare never the worse among them for that little Scrap which appears at the Head of them; and what the more encourages me in the use of Quotations in an unknown Tongue is, that I hear the Ladies, whose Approbation I value more than that of the whole Learned World, declare themselves in a more particular manner pleas'd with my *Greek* Motto's.

Designing this Day's Work for a Dissertation upon the two Extremities of my Paper, and having already dispatched my Motto, I shall, in the next place, discourse upon those single Capital Letters which are placed at the End of it, and which have afforded great Matter of Speculation to the Curious. I have heard various Conjectures upon this Subject. Some tell us, that C is the Mark of those Papers that are written by the Clergyman, though others ascribe them to the Club in general. That the Papers marked with R were written by my Friend Sir ROGER. That L signifies the Lawyer, whom I have described in my Second Speculation; and that T stands for the Trader or Merchant: But the Letter X, which is placed at the End of some few of my Papers is that which has puzled the whole Town, as they cannot think of any Name which begins with that Letter, except *Xenophon* and *Xerxes*, who can neither of them be supposed to have had any Hand in these Speculations.

In Answer to these inquisitive Gentlemen, who have many of them made Enquiries of me by Letter,

ter, I must tell them the Reply of an ancient Philosopher, who carried something hidden under his Cloak. A certain Acquaintance desiring him to let him know what it was he covered so carefully; *I cover it*, says he, *on purpose that you should not know*. I have made use of these obscure Marks for the same purpose. They are, perhaps, little Amulets or Charms to preserve the Paper against the Fascination and Malice of Evil Eyes; for which Reason I would not have my Reader surprized, if hereafter he sees any of my Papers marked with a Q, a Z, a Y, an &c. or with the Word *Abracadabra*.

I shall however so far explain myself to the Reader, as to let him know that the Letters C, L and X are Cabalistical, and carry more in them than it is proper for the World to be acquainted with. Those who are versed in the Philosophy of *Pythagoras*, and swear by the *Tetrachtys*, that is, the number Four, will know very well that the Number *Ten*, which is signified by the Letter X, (and which has so much perplexed the Town) has in it many particular Powers; that it is called by Platonick Writers the Compleat Number; that One, Two, Three and Four put together make up the Number Ten; and that Ten is all. But these are not Mysteries for ordinary Readers to be let into. A Man must have spent many Years in hard Study before he can arrive at the Knowledge of them.

We had a Rabbinnical Divine in *England*, who was Chaplain to the Earl of *Essex* in Queen *Elizabeth*'s Time, that had an admirable Head for Secrets of this Nature. Upon his taking the Doctor of Divinity's Degree he preached before the University of *Cambridge*, upon the *First* Verse of the *First* Chapter of the *First* Book of *Chronicles*, in which, says he, you will see the three following Words,

Adam, Sheth, Enosh.

He divided this short Text into many Parts, and by discovering several Mysteries in each Word, made a most Learned and Elaborate Discourse. The Name of this profound Preacher was Doctor *Alabaster*, of whom the Reader may find a more particular Account in Doctor *Fuller*'s Book of *English* Worthies. This Instance will, I hope, convince my Readers that there may be a great deal of fine Writing in the Capital Letters which bring up the Rear of my Paper, and give them some Satisfaction in that Particular. But as for the full Explication of these Matters, I must refer them to Time, which discovers all things.

Compleat Setts of this Paper to the End of October may be had of Mr. Graves in St. James's-Street; Mrs. Bond at the Old Vine at Charing-Cross; Mr. Lewis under Tom's Coffee-House, Covent-Garden; Mr. Lillie, Perfumer, at the Corner of Beaufort-Buildings; Mrs. Treguney, near Essex-Street; Mrs. Dodd at the Peacock without Temple-bar; Mrs. Boulter next the Rose Tavern at Temple Bar; Mr. Sanger at the Temple Gate; Mr. Lloyd near the Church in the Temple; Mr. Knapton in St. Paul's Church-Yard; Mr. Round in Exchange Alley, and Mrs. Baldwin in Warwick-lane.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Never Acted but once.

By Her Majesty's Company of Comedians.

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane this present Tuesday, being the 13th of November, will be presented a new Comedy called The Wife's Relief: Or, The Husband's Cure. The whole Play being new Dressed.

To be Sold (without Doors) by the Merchant, at his House in Mincing lane, next to Tho. Palmer, Esq; a fresh parcel of new French Wines, viz. Obryan Claret at 3 s. the Bottle, at 3 s. 9 d. the Flask, Hermitage and Burgundy at 5 s. the Flask.

Wines to be sold by Retail.

Excellent Red and White Port, and Red and White Lisbon, being neat Wines as they came from the Grape, of the best Growth in Portugal. To be sold by the Importer in a Vault in Brabant-Court in Philpot-Lane, viz. Red and White Port at 5 s. per Gallon, or 14 l. per Hhd. Red and White Lisbon at 5 s. 6 d. per Gallon, or 16 l. per Hhd. Attendance will be given every Day till 6 at Night.

At the Mountain Wine-Cellar under the Royal South-Sea Coffee house in Broad-street, is sold by retale excellent Mountain Malaga Wine at 6 s. 8 d. per Gallon or 1 s. 9 d. per Quart, and Red Viana Wine at 13 d. per Bottle; such Persons as take three Gallons shall pay but 12 s. there being 13 Bottles, warranted all neat and pure from the Grape.

For SALE by the CANDLE.

At the Marine Coffee-house in Birchin-lane, on Friday the 16th of November, at 3 a Clock in the Afternoon, viz. 50 Bags of right fine Carracco Cocoa Nuts, clean garbled, an entire parcel, lately landed, and in the Importer's Hands, in 50 Lots, each Bag containing about 100 and a half, more or less, at 7 l. 15 s. per 100; to advance 1 s. each bidding: Also a small parcel of broken Nuts sifted out of the Dust which was garbled from the whole Parcel. To be seen at a Ware-house at Botolph's Wharf near London-Bridge on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday before the Sale. To be Sold by Richard Hayward, Broker; who is to be spoke with every Day on the Grocer's-Walk at Exchange-Time, and after at Carolina Coffee house in Birchin lane.

For SALE by the CANDLE.

On Wednesday the 21st Instant, at Garraway's Coffee-house, at 3 in the Afternoon, (only one Cask in a Lot) 50 Hhds. and 3 Tierces of Excellent new Claret, viz. Le Fit, la Tour, Margaux, Obrion, and other of the best Growths of France, deep bright, and of the true flavour, neat, and not one Hhd. sold out of the Cargo, Imported by the Ship Christina, Borge Hanson Master, directly from Bourdeaux; now in Vaults in Token-house-yard at the Back side of Leaden hall Coffee-house in Leaden-hall-street. To be seen and tasted on Monday and Tuesday the 19th and 20th from 10 to 1, and from 2 to 5, and all Wednesday the 21st till the time of Sale. Catalogues shall be timely dispersed by Tho. Tomkins, Broker, in Seething-lane in Tower-street.

This Day is Published,

An Essay on the Genius and Writings of Shakespear; with some Letters of Criticism to the Spectator, price 1 s. The Grounds of Criticism in Poetry, price 1 s. 6 d. An Essay on Publick Spirit, being a Satyr upon the present Times, price 6 d. Reflections Critical and Satyrical upon a late Rhapsody called An Essay upon Criticism price 6 d. All Written by Mr. Dennis. Decretum et Ordo Facilis, per Tho. Johnson, ufui Schol. Brentfordienfis & quorumvis aliarum, price 1 s. Dr. Stevens Queen Elisabeth's Sermon preached before the Irish Protestants residing in London, price 6 d. All Printed for Bernard Lintott at the Cross Keys between the two Temple Gates in Fleet-street.

Lately Publish'd,

An Impartial View of the Two late Parliaments, Their Proceedings, and the Late Ministry fully Justified, Together with the Affairs of Convocation, wherein the Irregularities of the Lower House are expos'd from their Original to this Present Time, and a fair Comparison offered at, between the late P——t and the last Session. Sold by J. Baker in Pater-Noster-Row.

Just Publish'd, in 12mo.

A very neat Pocket Edition of Mr. Steele's two Comedies, viz. The Funeral, and The Tender Husband. Printed for J. Tonson and Sold by Owen Lloyd near the Church in the Temple. Where may be had The Lying-Lovers, a Comedy.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertisements are taken in; as also by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beaufort-Buildings* in the *Strand*.